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what seems to make the play so beautiful and real.

China struggles with her mother, Marcia (Elizabeth Baldwin), who encourages China to be involved with the Jewish ceremonies. China, who claims she does not believe in God, wants no part of her Jewish heritage. Because of her lack of identity, China has a difficult time dancing in public. At first, she cannot understand why she, as a ballet dancer, wrestles with dancing in the light on stage. She tells her mother that when the light shines, she becomes frozen.

Marcia has hired a man, Guy (Larry Evans), to help her around the house. He begins following China around, watching her as she dances. China tells her mother that she is disturbed by Guy, but her mother dismisses her claims as illusions.

While her mother is away, Guy confronts China about her being a dancer and a Jew. He tells her that he is angered that the "superior" white race in this country has been invaded by

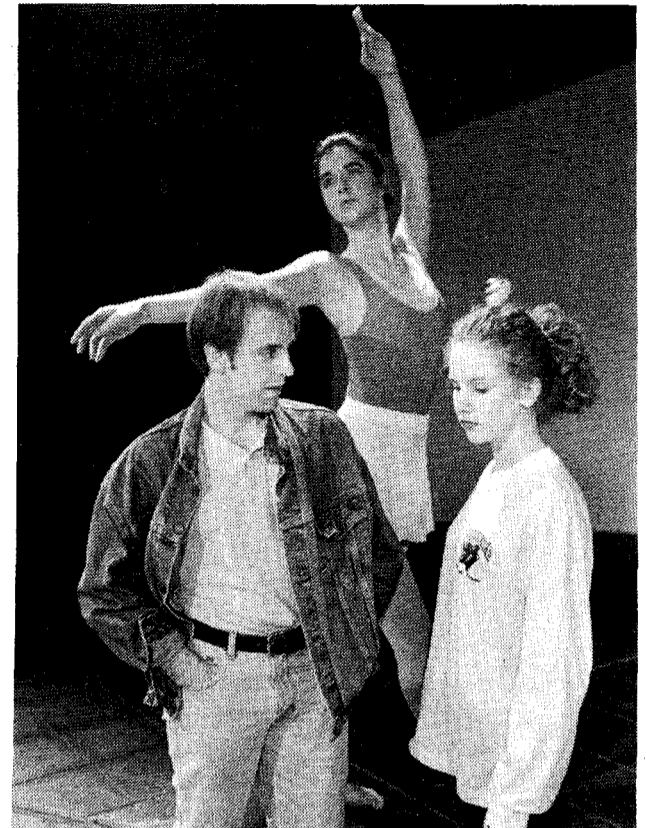
foreigners of an "inferior" race, such as Jews. China is maddened by Guy's statements, but is unsure of what to do about it.

China meets a "crazy" woman who used to be a Gypsy, named Dalton (Kim Debus), and a black woman, named Fanon (Phyllis Gay), who both indirectly help China realize that she needs to be proud of who she is and take pride in her Jewish heritage. They help her realize she cannot hide from her history.

China has dreams about Holocaust and begins to relate these dreams to her life, her family and her past. China associates Guy with the Nazis, who under Hitler's rule tore apart Jewish families with the belief that the Jews were the inferior race. Through her dreams, which remind her of what "she has forgotten" about the Jews' difficult past, China becomes aware of the struggles her Jewish family once faced and begins to accept herself and realize what it means to be a "Jewish girl" in this day and age.

Intermingled throughout the play are scenes of China's grandparents, Hershel (Seth A. Blum) and Dora (KeAnne Tomilson), as they reflect the past and chat with one another. In the end of the play China participates with them in the Jewish ceremony of lighting candles and breaking bread, which she has refused in the past. She's no longer afraid of dancing in public. She has uncovered her identity; she has worked through her fears. She dances in a circle with her grandparents to Jewish music.

The play was filled with poetic references to the harsh reality of the Holocaust and the beauty of Jewish ceremony. The actors did a tremendous job with their accents, movements, and vocal expression, as the characters seemed to come to life on stage. It was easy to picture a young Jewish girl wrestling with this issue of family heritage and the history that helps in some way shape and create who we all are.



Meredith Performs' Cast No Shadow was held in the Studio Theatre last week.

Photo submitted by Steven Wilson

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through their innovation, creativity, and even personal sacrifice.

After lunch, there were two more workshop sessions where the delegates again had the opportunity to choose between seven different topics each.

DeeDee Washington, president of the Social Work Club, attended the workshop entitled "Leadership and Diversity: Effective Student Leadership and Today's Job Market."

"It was a very eye-opening experience to see different people from different schools work together in creating new ideas to lead their individual organizations," said Washington.

In the third workshop session, SGA President Erica Balmer went to "You Mean I Can Get Paid to do This?" Erica commented, "I had hoped a wider variety of information for students with different leadership backgrounds. However, it is beneficial to have leadership experience that will help one become a leader in any field you enter."

John Barnhill of Elon College closed the day with a thank you to all delegates, presenters, Consortium members, and

participating schools.

Several Meredith students and staff members presented some of the individual workshops. These representatives included: Shelly Hoover, Cheryl Jenkins, Chrissie Bungardner, Heather Wilkin, Rebecca Huffstetler, Kelly Conkling, Kathryn Colvard.

Throughout the day, numerous door prizes were drawn. Such prizes were composed of college paraphernalia from each college represented. The key was that a student didn't win something from his or her own school.

The schools that attended the LEAD Conference included both private and state institutions. The represented schools were as follows: Barton College, Campbell University, Elon College, Greensboro College, Greensboro Technical Community College, High Point University, Lenoir-Rhyne College, Meredith College, Methodist College, Montgomery Community College, Mt. Olive College, NC State, Peace College, Pfeiffer College, Queens College, UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Greensboro,

and UNC-Wilmington.

Meredith College can be proud to say that it had the most delegates of any other school. Assistant Director of Student Activities and Leadership Development, as well as Leadership Consortium Chair, Shelly Hoover commented on how exciting it was to see all the schools work together from across the state for one common goal.

"The Leadership Consortium surpassed any goal we ever had. We would have been excited to only have 50 or 60 students. One week before the conference we were up to 143 students, and then by the night before the conference we were over 200," said Hoover.

She continued, "As an observer, I enjoyed watching the students interact with each other and brainstorming new ideas to take back to their individual schools."

Overall, the first annual LEAD Conference was a success in many people's eyes. Now the only question is, which school will host the conference in 1998?

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